

and our taking over the spending directly we have no basis on which to check our work and I, for one, am strongly opposed to LB 169 and would ask that you return the bill at least if we are going to discuss the bill for the purpose of inserting in the reserve 6%.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, I happen to support the concept, in fact I would like to see it go back to 7% and I'll explain that in a minute but I'm not going to vote for the amendment. I'm going to vote for passage of this bill at this time and I'll explain that. The Board of Equalization as it exists now is basically vested with two responsibilities. One of these deals with the entire property tax system and one of these deals with the sales and income tax system. With respect to the sales and income tax portion of their responsibility that responsibility amounts to nothing more than a clerical function of simply saying, what arithmetic or what rate is necessary to raise the money that was spent by the Legislature. It is really nothing more, I repeat, than a clerical job. On the other hand, their second function and the function that should be primary because of the Constitution and the state laws on the subject has to do with the entire property tax system that is a truly responsible one because they do have discretion, they do have the total responsibility to make sure the property tax system works and is fair. However, every senator in here has watched over the years the almost total attention of the Board of Equalization by any of the governors and tax commissioners that were in office is in the area of sales and income tax and creating the illusion that that is all they deal with and creating the illusion that they are either cutting tax rates or increasing tax rates or preventing this from happening or causing that to happen. By using this illusion, this curtain of, I think it is almost deception, they have been able to mask over their failure to address their real responsibility which is the property tax system. Now I have said, I believe, the Governor is making an error, an error by giving up this responsibility of the sales and income tax but I support his doing it because I believe it is and should be our responsibility but more important, I think it will remove the curtain and mask they have been using over the years to hide their failure on the property tax system. For the last three years, every single year when we have come here it has been a crisis condition and attempts to deal with the overall sales and income tax and property tax system, particularly by Senator Carsten in his committee, attempts to deal with that have always foundered on the shoals of the crisis situation. We've got to meet the immediate crisis whether it was 816 or something else and you could never address the entire system. I believe